deceives the head, no man's head ever yet, for a single moment, deceived his heart. Castlereagh's heart was not deceived, when conscience gave him a crimson necklace; Cardinal Beaufort's heart was not deceived, when he died and made no sign. The truth was in their hearts, but in their hearts the truth was not hallowed; their wicked minds were always warned, and they believed—and, at last, they trembled. But now for the end. If it be sinful to waste any thing, why should we waste this lecture? Young men! my hair is already gray. I have lived in eventful times, and witnessed marvellous changes. You will witness changes still more marvellous. William Hazlitt, *using a metaphor which is perfect, said, in prose which is poetry*—"That the great world of electricity lies all undiscovered before us; *like America, asleep for centuries by the side of her unconscious sister.*" It may not be in the destiny of any one of you to invent and perfect a machine which shall be worked without cost by the electric fluid, and supersede the giant power of steam; but if, in my course through life, any truth has been more strongly impressed upon my mind than another, it is this—that (did they but know it) men possess collectively, and therefore individually, the greatest of all powers, except that of Him who is, and was, and shall be—I mean the power of co-operation. Use that power, as true poets write their verses, earnestly, and without selfishness; let the exercise of it be "its own exceeding great reward;" use it in a manner worthy of the living image of the everlasting God, remembering that the great family of man is one family, and that God is its father. And then, if any true-hearted man tells you that he does not understand poetry, tell him, in reply, that it is the business of his life, that he *practises* it every day. "For wisdom lives with children round her knees." And this will be the first great discovery which honest co-operation will enable you to make. The most valuable things in the world are men; and when the majority of you think so, wo be to them who shall dare to throw away a man! You will, then, hear no more of emigration-committees. But now, mark! He who compels, or willingly suffers, a human being to remain in ignorance, does much worse than throw away a man; he converts a man into a beast, fit only to beget creatures destined to live and perish miserably—creatures without *minds*, and therefore not men! In furtherance, then, of that co-operation which can alone put an end to such wickedness and misery, may God hallow and bless in your thoughtful hearts *the truth*, which is poetry; not that barren understanding which meaneth no evil, but that only fearless and truly pious one, *which meaneth good!* I must now conclude this long exemplification of a principle which is perhaps of little importance, but which must be of some, or you would not have come to hear me talk about it. I thank you for your thanks, your applause—and your silence, the best applause; and surely I have reason to be proud and thankful, if I have at all deserved the approbation of the townsmen of Daniel Sykes and Andrew Marvel.

Family Library.—The eighty-eighth number of Harper's Family Library contains Thomas Dick's "Celestial Scenery, or the Wonders of the Planetary System Displayed," a work of research and accuracy, mixed with some curious speculations. Our author computes that the small planet Mercury, fifteen times smaller than our earth, is capable of containing a population upon its surface much greater than has ever been supported on the surface of the earth during any period of its history. To prove this, he takes the population of England as a standard; England contains 50,000 square miles of surface, and 1,400,000 of inhabitants, which is 280 inhabitants for every square mile. The surface of Mercury contains 32,000,000 of square miles, which is not much less than all the habitable parts of our globe. At the rate of population now stated, it is therefore sufficiently ample to contain 8,960,000,000, or eight thousand nine hundred and sixty millions of inhabitants, which is more than eleven times the population of our globe. Small as this planet may be considered when compared with others, and seldom as it is noticed by the vulgar eye, our author thinks that in all "probability," it holds a far more distinguished rank in the intellectual and social system under the moral government of God, than this terrestrial world of which we are so proud, and all the living beings which traverse its surface. Now, if the author had admitted the *possibility* of this, he would have gone far enough; the probable should have been merged in the possible. It is by such speculations, however, that the reader is taught to appreciate the immensity of the universe, and we are free to admit that many new ideas may be derived from Mr. Dick's work.

The Diamond.—The lecture this evening before the Athenian Institute will be by Dr. J. K. Mitchell, on the Diamond, with anecdotes of the most celebrated, and illustrated by large models; at the close of the lecture an expensive diamond will be burned for the *illumination* of the company. Job R. Tyson, Esq., follows Dr. Mitchell, on the moral effects of the American revolution. Lectures are in vogue; we insert one to-day in the Journal, by the Corn-Law Rhymer, "That Poetry is Self-Communion," not to be in the fashion of the day, but because it is a very ingenious speculation, and is supported by some interesting examples. We commend it to the reader's attention.

Insects from Flint.—Some doubt and a little ridicule have been cast on the experiments of Mr. Crosse respecting the formation of insects from a solution of burnt flint in acid; that gentleman has just published a paper of considerable interest, in which he gives further details, and the results of further experiments all having the like results. As it excites much curiosity, we shall devote a few of our columns next week to the republication of this paper.

American Quarterly.—We give place with pleasure to the following communication. Is it not, however, unnecessary, as we have little doubt the junction will improve the product? all will of course continue their subscriptions. "The *entire* literary strength of the two cities" *is* attractive:—

"The editor and proprietor of the American Quarterly Review has the pleasure of announcing to the subscribers that a junction of the subscription lists of that Review and of the New York Review has taken place, involving a complete union of interests. Hereafter the latter journal will be substituted for the former, and extensive arrangements have been made to secure its punctual issue on the first day of April next, and quarterly thereafter. The entire literary strength of the two cities of New York and Philadelphia, it is expected, will be engaged in contributing to the success of a periodical which looks forward to rendering essential service to the cause af letters in our country. The work will be issued here simultaneously with its appearance in New York—Mr. Waldie continuing to afford his substantial aid to the project as the Philadelphia publisher. No alteration will occur in the agency of the work, the subscribers to the American Quarterly receiving their numbers as heretofore. It is hoped that the renewed efforts which have been exerted for the success of our native literature will receive the increased patronage of the American public.

Philadelphia, March 1, 1838.

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To the above notice the undersigned need add but little. He will give the most prompt attention to the delivery of the numbers as they reach him, and to the whole indeed the same attention as when the American Quarterly was published by him as a distinct work. Subscribers intending to discontinue will please give *immediate notice*, and agents are particularly urged to say *how many copies they will take and be responsible for.* This is more immediately necessary, to decide the quantity to be printed.

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ADAM WALDIE.

Philadelphia, March 15, 1838.

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The Journal of Belles Lettres.

THE HOUSEHOLD WRECK.

This absorbing tale, albeit containing rather too many words, is brought so near a conclusion in the pages of the Library to-day, that we are induced to insert the remainder below, in order that it may not go out incomplete; the matter that follows will of course appear again in the Library columns next week, for its completion when bound.

Continuation of the Household Wreck, from page 208 of the Library.

have shot him: he will with many people have no such character, but at worst the character of a man too harsh (they will say), and possibly mistaken in protecting his property. And then, if not known as the man who shot him, where is the shadow even of vengeance? Strange it seemed to me, and passing strange, that I should be the person to urge arguments in behalf of letting this man escape. For, at one time I had as certainly, as inexorably, doomed him as ever I took any resolution in my life. But the fact is, and I began to see it upon closer view, it is not easy by any means to take an adequate vengeance for any injury beyond a very trivial standard; and that with common magnanimity one does not care to avenge. Whilst I was in this mood of mind, still debating with myself whether I should or should not contaminate my hands with the blood of this monster, and still unable to shut my eyes upon one fact, namely, that my buried Agnes could above all things have urged me to abstain from such acts of violence, too evidently useless, listlessly and scarcely knowing what I was in quest of, I strayed by accident into a church where a venerable old man was preaching at the very moment I entered: he was either delivering as a text, or repeating in the course of his sermon, these words—"Vengeance is mine, I will repay, saith the Lord." By some accident also he fixed his eyes upon me at the moment; and this concurrence with the subject then occupying my thoughts so much impressed me, that I determined very seriously to review my half-formed purposes of revenge: and well it was that I did so—for in that same week an explosion of popular fury brought the life of this wretched Barratt to a shocking termination, pretty much resembling the fate of the De Witts in Holland. And the consequences to me were such, and so full of all the consolation and indemnification which this world could give me, that I have often shuddered since then at the narrow escape I had had from myself intercepting this remarkable retribution. The villain had again been attempting to play off the same hellish scheme with a beautiful young rustic which had succeeded in the case of my ill-fated Agnes. But the young woman in this instance had a high, and, in fact, termagant spirit. Rustic as she was, she had been warned of the character of the man: every body, in fact, was familiar with the recent tragedy. Either her lover or her brother happened to be waiting for her outside the window. He saw in part the very tricks in the act of perpetration by which some article or other, meant to be claimed as stolen property, was conveyed into a parcel she had incautiously laid down. He heard the charge against her made by Barratt, and seconded by his creatures—heard her appeal—sprang to her aid—dragged the ruffian into the street, when in less time than the tale could be told, and before the police (though tolerably alert) could effectually interpose for his rescue, the mob had so used or so abused the opportunity they had long wished for, that he remained the mere disfigured wreck of what had once been a man, rather than a creature with any resemblance to humanity. I myself heard the uproar at a distance, and the shouts and yells of savage exultation: they were sounds I shall never forget, though I did not at that time know them for what they were, or understood their meaning. The result, however, to me was something beyond this, and worthy to have been purchased with my heart's blood. Barratt still breathed: spite of his mutilations he could speak; he was rational. One only thing he demanded—it was that his dying confession might be taken. Two magistrates and a clergyman attended. He gave a list of those whom he had trepanned, and had failed to trepan, by his artifices and threats, into the sacrifice of their honour. He expired before the record was closed, but not before he had placed my wife's name in the latter list, as the one whose injuries in his dying moments most appalled him. This confession on the following day went into the hands of the hostile minister—and my revenge was perfect.

THE END.

INSECTS FROM FLINT.

Mr. Crosse, who recently announced the startling circumstance of his discovery of insects from a solution of burnt flint in an acid, has been much ridiculed for his hardihood in making public so improbable a theory. But he is not discouraged. The following is the principal portion of a letter just published in a leading British periodical; as it seems to confer some additional importance on the matter, we are induced to make it public, to the exclusion of much other material prepared for to-day:—

ELECTRICAL SOCIETY.

Saturday, 20th January.—The following paper and extracts of a letter from Mr. Crosse were read. By the kindness of the society, we are enabled to lay them before our readers in the most complete form, though they are, we understand, in the course of printing, to form part of the transactions of the society. Having been the first public channel through which Mr. Crosse's experiments were made known (in our report of transactions of the British Association at Bristol,) and having also published the various opinions hostile to the accuracy of that gentleman's conclusions, we have the greater pleasure now, in giving a full account of his later experiments and opinions.

"My dear sir,—Electricity is no longer the paltry confined science which it was once fancied to be, making its appearance only from the friction of glass or wax, employed in childish purposes, serving as a trick for the schoolboy, or a nostrum for the quack. But it is, even now, though in its infancy, proved to be most intimately connected with all operations in chemistry, with magnetism, with light and caloric; apparently a property belonging to all matter, perhaps ranging through all space, from sun to sun, from planet to planet, and not improbably the secondary cause of every change in the animal, mineral, vegetable, and gaseous systems. It is to determine whether this be, or not, the case, as far as human faculties can determine, to ascertain what rank in the tree of science electricity is to hold; to endeavour to find out to what useful purposes it might be applied, that I conceive is the object of your society, and I shall at all times be ready and willing, as a member, to contribute my quota of information to its support, knowing well, that however little it might be, it will be as kindly received as it is humbly offered.

"I can assure you, sir, that I attach no particular value to any experiment that I have made, and that my feelings and habits are much more of a retiring than an obtruding character; and I care not if what I have done be entirely overthrown, if truth be elicited. The following is a plain and correct account of the experiments alluded to. In the course of my endeavours to form artificial minerals by a long-continued electric action on fluids holding in solution such substances as were necessary to my purpose, I had recourse to every variety of contrivance which I could think of, so that, on the one hand, I might be enabled to keep up a never-failing electrical current of greater or less intensity or quantity, or both, as the case seemed to require; and on the other hand, that the solutions made use of should be exposed to the electric action in the manner best calculated to effect the object in view. Amongst other contrivances, I constructed a wooden frame of about two feet in height, consisting of four legs, proceeding from a shelf at the bottom supporting another at the top, and containing a third in the middle. Each of these shelves was about seven inches square. The upper one was pierced with an aperture, in which was fixed a funnel of Wedgewood ware, within which rested a quart basin on a circular piece of mahogany placed within the funnel. When this basin was filled with a fluid, a strip of flannel, wetted with the same, was suspended over the edge of the basin and inside the funnel, which, acting as a syphon, conveyed the fluid out of the basin, through the funnel, in successive drops. The middle shelf of the frame was likewise pierced with an aperture, in which was fixed a smaller funnel of glass, which supported a piece of somewhat porous red oxide of iron from Vesuvius, immediately under the dropping of the upper funnel. This stone was kept constantly electrified by means of two platina wires on either side of it, connected with the poles of a Voltaic battery of nineteen pairs of five-inch zinc and copper single plates, in two porcelain troughs, the cells of which were filled at first with water and one 500th of hydrochloric acid, but afterwards with water alone. I may even state, that in all my subsequent experiments relative to these insects, I filled the wells of the batteries employed with nothing but common water. The lower shelf merely supported a wide-mouthed bottle, to receive the drops as they fell from the second funnel. When the basin was nearly emptied, the fluid was poured back again from the bottle below into the basin above, without disturbing the position of the latter. It was by mere chance that I selected this volcanic substance, choosing it from its partial porosity; nor do I believe that it had the slightest effect in the production of the insects to be described. The fluid with which I filled the basin was made as follows: I reduced a piece of black flint to powder, having first exposed it to a red heat and quenched it in water to make it friable. Of this powder I took two ounces, and mixed them intensely with six ounces of carbonate of potassa, exposed them to a strong heat for fifteen minutes in a black lead crucible in an air furnace, and then poured the fused compound on an iron plate, reduced it to powder whilst still warm, poured boiling water on it, and kept it boiling for some minutes in a sand bath.

The greater part of the soluble glass thus fused, was taken up by the water, together with a portion of alumina, from the crucible. I should have used one of silver, but had none sufficiently large. To a portion of the silicate of potassa thus fused, I added some boiling water to dilute it, and then slowly added hydrochloric acid to supersaturation. A strange remark was made on this part of the experiment at the meeting of the British Association at Liverpool, it being then gravely stated, that it was impossible to add an acid to a silicate of potassa without precipitating the silica! This, of course, must be the case unless the solution be diluted with water. My object in subjecting this fluid to a long-continued electric action through the intervention of a porous stone, was to form, if possible, crystals of silica at one of the poles of the battery, but I failed in accomplishing this by those means. On the fourteenth day from the commencement of the experiment, I observed, through a lens, a few small whitish excrescences or nipples projecting from about the middle of the electrified stone, and nearly under the dropping of the fluid above. On the eighteenth day these projections enlarged, and seven or eight filaments, each of them longer than the excrescence from which it grew, made their appearance on each of the nipples. On the twenty-second day these appearances were more elevated and distinct, and on the twenty-sixth day each figure assumed the form of a perfect insect standing erect on a few bristles which formed its tail. Till this period I had no notion that these appearances were any other than an incipient internal formation; but it was not until the twenty-eighth day, when I plainly perceived these little creatures move their legs, that I felt any surprise, and I must own that when this took place, I was not a little astonished. I endeavoured to detach with the point of a needle, one or two of them from their position on the stone, but they immediately died, and I was obliged to wait patiently for a few days longer, when they separated themselves from the stone, and moved about at pleasure, although they had been for some time after their birth apparently averse to motion. In the course of a few weeks about a hundred of them made their appearance on the stone. I observed that at first each of them fixed itself for a considerable time in one spot, appearing, as far as I could judge, to live by suction; but when a ray of light from the sun was directed upon it, it seemed disturbed, and removed itself to the shaded part of the stone. Out of about a hundred insects, not above five or six were born on the south side of the stone; I examined some of them with the microscope, and observed that the smaller ones appeared to have only six legs, but the larger ones eight. It would be superfluous to attempt a description of these little mites, when so excellent a one has been transmitted from Paris. It seems that they are of the genus *Acaras*, but of a species not hitherto observed. I have had three separate formations of similar insects at different times, from fresh portions of the same fluid, with the same apparatus. As I considered the result of this experiment rather extraordinary, I made some of my friends acquainted with it, amongst whom were some highly scientific gentlemen, and they plainly perceived the insect in various states. I likewise transmitted some of them to one of our most distinguished physiologists in London; and the opinion of this gentleman, as well as of other eminent persons to whom he showed them, coincided with that of the gentlemen of the Academie des Sciences, as to their genus and species. *I have never ventured an opinion as to the cause of their birth*, and for a very good reason—I was unable to form one. The most simple solution of the problem which occurred to me was, that they arose from ova deposited by insects floating in the atmosphere, and that they might possibly be hatched by the electric action. Still I could not imagine that an ovum could shoot out filaments, and that those filaments would become bristles; and, moreover, I could not detect, on the closest examination, any remains of a shell. Again, we have no right to assume that electric action is necessary to vitality, until that fact shall have been most distinctly proved. I next imagined, as others have done, that they might have originated from the water, and, consequently, made a close examination of several hundred vessels filled with the same water as that which held in solution the silicate of potassa, in the same room, which vessels constituted the bulk of a large Voltaic battery, and without acid. In none of these vessels could I perceive the trace of an insect of that description. I likewise closely examined the crevices and most dusty parts of the door with no better success. In the course of some months, indeed, these insects so increased, that, when they were strong enough to leave their moistened birth-place, they issued out in different directions, I suppose in quest of food; but they generally huddled together under a card or piece of paper in their neighbourhood, as if to avoid light and disturbance. In the course of my experiments upon other matters, I filled a glass basin with a concentrated solution of silicate of potassa without acid, in the middle of which I placed a piece of brick used in this neighbourhood for domestic purposes, and consisting mostly of silica. Two wires of platina connected either end of the brick with the two poles of a Voltaic battery of sixty-three pairs of plates, each about two inches square. After many months' action, silica in a gelatinous state formed in some quantity round the bottom of the brick; and, as the solution evaporated, I replaced it by fresh additions, so that the outside of the glass basin, being constantly wet by repeated overflowings, was, of course, constantly electrified. On this outside, as well as on the edge of the fluid within, I one day perceived the well-known whitish excrescence, with its projecting filaments. In the course of time they increased in number, and, as they successively burst into life, the whole table on which the apparatus stood, at last was covered with similar insects, which hid themselves wherever they could find a shelter. Some of them were of different sizes, there being a considerable difference in this respect between the larger and the smaller; and they were plainly perceptible to the naked eye, as they nimbly crawled from one spot to another. I closely examined the table with a lens, but could perceive no such excrescence as that which marks their incipient state, on any part of it. While these effects were taking place in my electrical room, similar formations were making their appearance in another room distant from the former. I had here placed on a table three Voltaic batteries, unconnected with each other. The first consisted of twenty pairs of two-inch plates, between the poles of which I placed a glass cylinder filled with a concentrated solution of silicate of potassa, in which was suspended a piece of clay slate by two platina wires connected with either pole of the battery. A piece of paper was placed on the top of the cylinder to keep out the dust. After many months' action, gelatinous silica in various forms was electrically attracted to the slate, which it coated in rather a singular manner, unnecessary here to describe. In the course of time I observed similar insects in their incipient state forming around the edge of the fluid within the jar, which, when perfect, crawled about the inner surface of the paper with great activity. The second battery consisted of twenty pairs of cylinders, each equal to a four-inch plate. Between the poles of this I interposed a series of seven glass cylinders filled with the following concentrated solutions:—1. Nitrate of copper: 2. Subcarbonate of potassa: 3. Sulphate of copper: 4. Green sulphate of iron: 5. Sulphate of zinc: 6. Water acidified with a minute portion of hydrochloric acid: 7. Water poured on powdered metallic arsenic, resting on a copper cup, connected with the positive pole of the battery. All these cylinders were electrically united together by arcs of sheet copper, so that the same electric current passed through the whole of them. After many months' action, and consequent formation of certain crystalised matters, which it is not my object here to notice, I observed similar excrescences with those before described at the edge of the fluid in every one of the cylinders, excepting the two which contained the carbonate of potassa and the metallic arsenic; and in due time a host of insects made their appearance. It was curious to observe the crystalised nitrate and sulphate of copper, which formed by slow evaporation at the edge of their respective solutions, dotted here and there with these hairy excrescences. At the foot of each of the cylinders I had placed a paper ticket upon the table, and on lifting them up, I found a little colony of insects under each, but no appearance whatever of their having been born under their respective papers, or on any part of the table. The third battery consisted of twenty pairs of cylinders, each equal to a three-inch plate. Between the poles of this I interposed likewise a series of six glass cylinders, filled with various solutions, in only one of which I obtained the insect. This contained a concentrated solution of silicate of potassa. A bent iron wire one-fifth of an inch in diameter, in the form of an inverted syphon, was plunged some inches into this solution, and connected it with the positive pole, whilst a small coil of fine silver wire joined it with the negative. After some months' electrical action, gelatinous silica enveloped both wires, but in much greater quantity at the positive pole; and in about eight months from the commencement of the experiment, on examining these two wires very minutely by means of a lens, having removed them from the solution for that purpose, I plainly perceived one of these incipient insects upon the gelatinous silica on the silver wire, and about half an inch below the surface of the fluid, when replaced in its original position. In the course of time, more insects made their appearance, till at last I counted at once three on the negative and twelve on the positive wire. Some of them were formed upon the naked part of the wires, that is, on that part which was partially bare of gelatinous silica; but they were mostly imbedded more or less in the silica, with eight or ten filaments projecting from each beyond the silica. It was perfectly impossible to mistake them, after having made one's self master of their different appearances; and an occasional motion in the filaments of those that had been the longest formed was very perceptible, and observed by many of my visiters, without my having previously noticed the fact to them. Most of these productions took place from half to three quarters of an inch under the surface of the fluid, which, as it evaporated very slowly, I kept to the same level by adding fresh portions. As some of these insects were formed on the inverted part of the syphon-shaped wire, I cannot imagine how they contrived to arrive at the surface, and to extricate themselves from the fluid: yet this they did repeatedly; their old places were vacated, and others were born in new ones. Whether they were in an imperfect state (except just at the commencement of their formation,) or in a perfect one, they had all the distinguishing characteristics of bristles projecting from their bodies, which occasioned the French *savans* to remark that they resembled a microscopic porcupine. I must not omit to state, that the room in which these three batteries were acting was kept almost constantly darkened. It was not my intention to make known these observations until I myself should be better informed about the matter. Chance led to the publication of an erroneous account of them, which I was under the necessity of explaining. It is so difficult to arrive at the truth, that mankind would do better to lend their assistance to explore what may be worth investigating, than to endeavour to crush in its bud that which might otherwise expand into a flower. In giving this account, I have merely stated those circumstances regarding the appearance of insects, which I have noticed during my investigations into the formation of mineral matters; I have never studied physiology, and am not aware under what circumstances the birth of this class of insects is usually developed. In my first experiment I had made use of flannel, wood, and a volcanic stone; in the last, none of these substances were present. I never for a moment entertained the idea that the electric fluid had animated the organic remains of insects, or fossil eggs, previously existing in the stone or the silica; and have formed no visionary theory which I would travel out of my way to support. I have since repeated these latter experiments in a third room, in which there are now two batteries at work. One consisting of eleven pairs of cylinders, made of four-inch plates, between the poles of which is placed a glass cylinder, filled with silicate of potassa, in which is suspended a piece of slate between two wires of platina, as before, and covered loosely with paper. Here, again, is another crop of insects formed. The other battery consists of twenty pairs of cylinders, the electric current of which is passed through six different solutions in glass cylinders, in three of which only is the insect formed, viz.: first, in nitrate of copper; secondly, in sulphate of copper, in each of which the insect is only produced at the edge of the fluid, as far as I can make out; and thirdly, by the old apparatus of coiled silver and iron wire in silicate of potassa, as before. There are now forming on the bottom of this positively electrified wire similar insects, at the distance of fully two inches below the surface of the fluid. On examining them, I have lately noticed a peculiar quality they possess whilst in an incipient state. After being kept some minutes out of the solution, they contract their filaments, so as, in some cases wholly, and in others partially, to disappear; I at first thought they were destroyed; but, on examining the same spots on the next day, they were as perceptible as before. In this respect, they seem not unlike the zoophytes, which adhere to the rocks on the sea-shore, and which contract on the approach of a finger. I may likewise remark, that I have not been able to detect their eyes, even when viewed under a powerful microscope, although I once fancied I perceived them. The extreme heat of summer and cold of winter do not appear favourable to their production, which succeeds best, I think, in spring and autumn. As, in the above account, I have occasionally made use of the word 'formation,' I beg that it may be understood that I do not mean *creation*, or any thing approaching to it. I am not aware that I have any thing more to add, except the few remarks I shall conclude with. First, I have not observed a formation of the insect, except on a moist and electrified surface, or under an electrified fluid. By this *I do not mean to assert that electricity has any thing to do with their birth*, as I have not made a sufficient number

of experiments to prove or disprove it; and, besides, I have not taken those necessary precautions which present themselves even to an unscientific view. These precautions are not so easy to observe as may at first sight appear. It is, however, my intention to repeat these experiments, by passing a stream of electricity through cylinders filled with various fluids under a glass receiver, inverted over mercury, the greatest possible care being taken to shut out extraneous matter. Should there be those who blame me for not having done this before, to such I answer, that, independent of a host of other hindrances, which it is not in my power to set aside, I have been closely pursuing a long train of experiments on the formation of crystalline matters by the electric agent, and on different modifications of the Voltaic battery; in which I am so interested, that none but the ardent can conceive what it is not in my power to describe. Secondly, These insects do not appear to have originated from others similar to themselves, as they are formed, in all cases, with access of moisture, and in some cases two inches below the surface of the fluid in which they are born; and if a full-grown and perfect insect be let fall into any fluid, it is infallibly drowned. Thirdly, I believe they live for many weeks; occasionally, I have found them dead in groups, apparently from want of food. Fourthly, It has been frequently suggested to me to repeat these experiments without using the electric agency: but this would be by no means satisfactory, let the event be what it would. It is well known that saline matters are easily crystalised, without subjecting them to the electric action; but it by no means follows that, because artificial electricity is not applied, such crystals are formed without the electric influence. I have made so many experiments on electrical crystalisation, that I am firmly convinced, in my own mind, that electric attraction is the cause of the formation of every crystal, whether artificial electricity be applied or not. I am, however, well aware of the difficulty of getting at the truth in these matters, and of separating cause from effect. It has often occurred to me, how it is that such numbers of animalcules are produced in flour and water, in pepper and water; also, the insects which infest fruit-trees after a blight. Does not a chemical change take place in the water, and likewise in the sap of the tree, previous to the appearance of these insects? and is, or is not, every chemical change produced by electric agency? In making these observations, I seek to mislead no one. The book of nature is opened wide to our view by the Almighty power, and we must endeavour, as far as our feeble faculties will permit, to make a good use of it; always remembering that, however the timid may shrink from investigation, the more completely the secrets of nature are laid bare, the more effectually will the power of that Great Being be manifested, who seems to have ordained, that

'Order is Heaven's first law.'

I am, &c.

ANDREW CROSSE.

"*Broomfield, Dec. 27th*, 1837."

Read, also, extracts from Mr. Crosse's letter, dated Broomfield, near Taunton, 12th January, 1838.—"Since writing the former account, I have obtained the insects on a bare platina wire, plunged into fluo-silicic acid, one inch below the surface of the fluid, at the negative pole of a small battery of two-inch plates, in cells filled with water."

Patronage of Literature!—Among the delectable treats served up almost daily to publishers of periodicals, in the shape of notices of *patrons* having removed—perhaps to Texas, or some place unknown,—the following is a pleasant specimen! His apparent destiny, however, we are pleased to think, belongs to few of our patrons:—

"*Post-Office*, ———, 1838.

"Sir,—Your paper addressed to ——— ——— is not taken out of this office.

Reason—He is in jail and will probably go to the penitentiary for stealing.

Your obedient servant,

J. ———, P. M.

"To the Editor of Waldie's Circulating Library."

Prescott's Ferdinand and Isabella has been received with great favour in England. The Athenæum says:—

"Mr. Prescott has had advantages which were denied to his predecessors; and glad are we to perceive that he has employed them to good purpose. He has produced a work which, whether for industry or ability, cannot easily be surpassed; and though a republican, his political bias never renders him unjust to the persons or attributes of monarchy. We are much pleased with his labours; and certain we are that no historical library can dispense with them.

"It is one of the most pleasing as well as most valuable contributions that have been made to modern history; and it is the only one that gives us a faithful and a sufficient picture of a period so momentous as the latter half of the fifteenth century."

Philosophy of Sir Walter Scott.—Our copy of Lockhart's Life of Sir Walter is scored in almost every page with matter suited to our pages. We can to-day only quote the following maxim of true philosophy:—

"Lest I should forget to mention it, I put down here a rebuke which, later in life, Sir Walter gave in my hearing to his daughter Anne. She happened to say of something, I forget what, that she could not abide it—it was *vulgar*. 'My love,' said her father, 'you speak like a very young lady; do you know, after all, the meaning of this word *vulgar*? 'Tis only *common*; nothing that is common, except wickedness, can deserve to be spoken of in a tone of contempt; and when you have lived to my years, you will be disposed to agree with me in thanking God that nothing really worth having or caring about in this world is *uncommon*."

Sir Egerton Brydges.—The late Sir Egerton Brydges, Bart., who died recently at Geneva, having left his lady and daughters in distressed circumstances, a private subscription has been raised for their relief; the chancellor of the exchequer has sent 50*l.*, the Literary Fund 20*l.*, and the Marquis of Northampton 26*l.*

Christianity in India.—The Bishop of Calcutta is collecting materials for the early history of Christianity in India.

Transferring and Reprinting.—The following curious piece of information we find in the last London Times:—

"We have just heard from Scotland of a discovery made by Mr. Ambrose Blacklock, surgeon, of Dumfries, of a cheap and easy method of *transferring* and *reprinting* books, engravings, and lithographs. The importance of such a discovery we need not dwell on. It is well known that with paper newly printed the impression may be transferred to stone merely by the aid of pressure; printer's ink, however, dries so quickly, that unless the transfer be made almost immediately, the attempt will fail. But Mr. Blacklock informs us that by a cheap chemical process, which he has discovered, the ink of prints and letter-press, *however old and dry*, may be expeditiously brought into a condition which admits of its being transferred and printed from, without in the slightest degree injuring the original copy; of course the nature of this chemical process is at present a secret, nor have we seen any printed work produced by these means."

Mr. Sheridan Knowles is now delivering a series of lectures on dramatic literature in the north of England, and, we are glad to hear, with great success. Modern dramatic literature owes to him more than to any other living author.

Diary of the Times of George the Fourth.—We cannot aid the circulation of this new court gossip; new and semi-authentic it undoubtedly is, and yet it throws no new light on the character of Queen Caroline, while the whole is dull and prosaic—not a particle of talent is displayed by the narrator, and though possibly true in most of its revealments, there is a want of reality in the mode of telling that is extremely unsatisfactory. In short, it amounts to nothing and is not worth reading. The London Examiner says most truly:—

"The mischief of the book is, what we would not affect to conceal from the reader, its groundwork of authenticity. The writer, no doubt, was for some time in an office of personal attendance on the unfortunat princess, whose frailties she thus endeavours to drag forth for the miserable profit she can make of them. That she was not in her mistress's confidence, is, we think, equally obvious. She has, by abusing the privileges of a chambermaid (we prefer the word to the more lofty and official phrase), just managed to hear and see enough to enable her, by the help of her own vulgarity and immodesty, to set down things with a friendly, affectionate, *Mrs. Candour* sort of an air, which she has fancied may be welcome to the people (we hope not to a large class), who are careless of the decencies in seeking for what may amuse them, and greedily swallow all that malevolence can invent or stupidity propagate concerning the private life or character of public persons. The book, after all, is really stupid in the main, and under the circumstances, this may be called its only merit." * *

"And such a coarse woman as this presumes to set herself up in judgment on an English queen, whose hard lot during life should have won her the more indulgence in the grave. We shut the book with a feeling of intolerable disgust, having only to say in explanation of the ample notice we have given in exposure and reprobation of it, that we were too well aware that the gossiping and scandalous nature of such a work relating to a court would rescue it from the neglect it merits. The case, therefore, which does not allow of the treatment of contempt, calls for chastisement."

Vulgar and coarse, we wonder that any body would read it; *dull* vulgarity is insupportable.

Dr. Hall's Lecture.—We have been exceedingly pleased with the perusal of a lecture entitled, "Disciplined Youth necessary for the Duties of Middle Life and the Comforts of Old Age," delivered to the young people of the borough of Bedford, Pennsylvania, by the Rev. Baynard Hall, A. M. While Pennsylvania posesses such scholars in her interior, there is no fear for her onward progress. It is a close, scholar-like production, highly creditable to Dr. Hall and to the borough; the gentlemen who requested its publication have done wisely. We wish it could be placed in the hands of every citizen of the United States; we shall therefore help to give it currency.

While on the subject of lectures, we may quote a happy idea respecting the advantages of education, as given by Mr. Stevens, of our state legislature, while dwelling with the ardour of genius on the importance of the school of arts, a plan which has been fully discussed and the bill carried, but to the disgrace of Pennsylvania, on reconsideration it was lost. Mr. Stevens says education "tends to develope the mental faculties and give them a strength, solidity, and energy, which they could never otherwise acquire. Just as you see workmen build a massive and high arch over a wooden frame, without which they never could have reared and united it—yet when it is united and becomes dry, it not only retains its shape, but is capable of sustaining almost any amount of superadded useful weight, although the wooden frame-work is rotted away or removed."

Professor Rogers's Geological Report to the legislature of the state. We have to thank several members of the senate of Pennsylvania for copies of this valuable report, creditable to Mr. Rogers and to the state which employed him.

Dr. Bowditch.—Science mourns the death of the celebrated Dr. Bowditch, whose great work, the translation of La Place's Mechanique Celeste, is left unfinished. The two volumes published are, however, a monument which a Newton might have been proud of.

The Gamester.—The last new novel is Walsingham, the Gamester, by Captain Chamier,

author of Ben Brace, &c., published in two volumes, which have a good moral, by Carey, Lea & Blanchard.

Thomas Pringle.—The poetical works of Thomas Pringle, with a sketch of his life, by Leitch Ritchie, has been published in octavo in London. Mr. Pringle is favourably known as the author of African Sketches, &c.; after rendering his country service, he died, leaving his widow and sister to the miserable pittance of an annuity of twenty pounds. The poems are published for their benefit.

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We continue our record of the announcements and so forth of the literary world abroad. The Literary Gazette says—

"*South America and the Pacific.*—We call the attention of our readers to a book of travels, on the eve of appearance, that can hardly fail of affording much interesting information. We allude to Mr. Campbell Scarlett's 'South America and the Pacific.' Besides the narrative of the author's journey across the Pampas and the Andes, from Buenos Ayres to Valparaiso, Lima, Panama, &c., are appended to the work plans and statements for establishing steam navigation on the Pacific, a circumstance which will doubtless cause these volumes to be eagerly sought for by all interested in an object of such inestimable benefit.—*Sun.*

"*The Court of Charles II.*—We observe the announcement of a new and enlarged edition of Mrs. Jameson's celebrated 'Memoirs of the Beauties of the Court of King Charles II.,' to appear in six monthly parts; embellished with twenty-one portraits, superbly engraved."

The Athenæum thus notices several books in prospect:—"The announcements of new books before us are more substantial than usual. Messrs. Longman promise us some scientific works of importance: one of these is 'A Dictionary of Arts, Manufactures, and Mining,' by Dr. Ure; another, 'A Dictionary of Science, Literature, and Art,' is announced as having been several years in preparation, and to contain contributions from some of the best approved writers of the day. A third dictionary, geographical, statistical, and historical, of the various countries, places, and principal natural objects in the world, is in preparation, by Mr. M'Culloch. This, by the way, offers us an opportunity of expressing our satisfaction at the recent appointment of the political economist to the place of comptroller in the stationary office. A no less worthy nomination is that of Sir David Brewster as Principal of Aberdeen College. To return to new books—Messrs. Longman further promise, for the scientific, 'A Treatise on the Elements of Light,' by Mr. J. H. Kyan—a continuation of Sir J. Hooker's 'Icones Plantarum,'—a new periodical to be called 'The Monthly Chronicle,' in which the science of Dr. Lardner, and other men of note, will be relieved by the literary speculations and essays of Mr. E. L. Bulwer; and for the novel-reader, 'The Robber,' by Mr. James. Periodicals, it would seem, are flourishing: another prospectus before us promises a 'Monthly Law Magazine and Political Review.' We may add to these, Mr. Van Voorst's announcement of Mr. J. S. Bowerbank's 'History of the Fossil Fruits and Seeds of the London Clay.' Messrs. Fisher advertise 'A History of Madagascar, in connection with the Protestant Mission, since its commencement in 1818,' edited by the Rev. W. Ellis—a work which should prove interesting; and lastly, for the benefit of the antiquarian and controversial, we may mention, that 'The Illustrator Illustrated,' by the author of the 'Curiosities of Literature,' is to appear shortly."

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Conversation augments pleasure, and diminishes pain, by our having sharers in either; for silent woes are greatest, as silent satisfactions least; since sometimes our pleasures would be none but for telling of it, and our grief insupportable but for participation.—*Wycherley.*

LONDON LITERARY NOVELTIES.

The Rev. H. F. Carey, the translator of Dante and Pindar, is engaged in editing a series of the British Poets, commencing with Pope's poems and translations. Mr. Morison, of Liverpool, formerly of Perth, announces a work tracing the Origin and History of all Religion, of all Idolatry, Astrology, and Superstition, in every form. Among forthcoming novelties is a new edition of Mansie Waugh, with illustrations by Cruikshank.

List of New Books published in London to the latest dates.

The Rural Life of England, by William Howitt, illustrated with wood engravings by S. Williams, 2 vols. Specimens of the Poets of Great Britain, by J. Johnstone, 24mo. Memoir of Erasmus H. Limon, 12mo. Paul Preston's Voyages, Travels, and Adventures. Historical Memoirs of the Queens of England, by H. Lawrence, 8vo. History of Ancient Philosophy, by H. Ritter, 2 vols. 8vo. The Voyages, Adventures, and Escapes of Capt. R. Falconer, 18mo. Lives of Eminent Youth, by B. H. Draper, 32mo. Private Correspondence of Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough, 2 vols. 8vo. Rowland Massingham, by Miss Strickland, 18mo. Rev. W. Whewell's Astronomy and General Physics, new edition. Memoirs of Joseph Holt, General of the Irish Rebels in 1798, by T. C. Croker, 2 vols. 8vo. Conversations on the Truth of Holy Scriptures, by a Clergyman's Widow, 18mo. The Rose Amateur's Guide, a Companion to the Sawbridgeworth's Collection of Roses, by T. Rivers, 8vo. Heath's Shakspeare Gallery, super-royal, 8vo. Winkle's English Cathedrals, Vol. II., imperial 8vo. Jane Lomax, or a Mother's Crime, 3 vols. Sermons on Various Topics of Doctrine, Practice, and Experience, by Rev. F. Goode, 8vo. Jardine's Naturalist's Library, Vol. XX., British Birds. The Life of A. Kilham, 8vo. Autographs, Letters, &c., of Illustrious and Distinguished Women of Great Britain, 4to. Ages of Female Beauty, 4to. Temper, a Treatise on its Use and Abuse, 18mo. E. Quin's Universal History, from the Creation to 1838, 12mo. A Botanical Lexicon, by the Rev. P. Keith, 8vo. Dr. Croly on the Apocalypse, third edition, 8vo. Illustrations of the Pickwick Papers, by Sam Weller, 8vo. The Canadian Controversy, its Origin, Nature, and Merits, 8vo. The Lounger's Commonplace-Book, 2 vols. History of the Reign of Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain, 3 vols. 8vo. Attila, King of the Huns, by the Hon. and Rev. H. Herbert, 8vo. The Works of Jeremy Bentham, Part I., royal 8vo. T. C. Colquhoun's System of National Education in Ireland, 12mo. Raff Hall, by R. Sulivan, Esq., 3 vols. Reminiscences of the Spanish War, by Rev. T. Farre, 8vo. On Warming and Ventilating, with Directions for Making and Using the Thermometer Stove, &c., by N. Arnott, M. D., 8vo. Gaudalin, or Love for Love, a Poem, by F. Hope, Esq., 12mo. Warner Arundel, the Adventures of a Creole, by E. L. Joseph, 3 vols. The Prisoners of Abd el Kader, or Five Months' Captivity among the Arabs, by Mons. A. De France. 12mo. Life of Rev. G. Crabbe, by his Son, 12mo. J. G. Wilkinson's Manners and Customs of the Ancient Egyptians, 3 vols. 8vo.

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